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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 292

01/17/2017 Authored by Sundin, Ecklund, Metsa, Rarick and Anderson, P.,
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; providing for reimbursement of costs associated with
1.3 beaver damage; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 97B.655, subdivision
1.4 2; 97B.665, subdivision 2; 97B.667, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 97B.655, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 2. **Special permit for taking protected wild animals.** The commissioner may
1.8 issue special permits under section 97A.401, subdivision 5, to take protected wild animals
1.9 that are damaging property or to remove or destroy their dens, nests, houses, or dams. Costs
1.10 associated with taking beaver that are damaging property or with removing or destroying
1.11 beaver lodges or dams are reimbursable according to section 97B.667, subdivision 5, if
1.12 incurred under a special permit issued under this subdivision.

1.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 97B.665, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.14 Subd. 2. **Petition to district court.** If a beaver dam causes a threat to personal safety or
1.15 a serious threat to damage property, a person may petition the district court for relief. The
1.16 court may order the owners of private property where beaver dams are located to take action
1.17 to reduce the threat. A permit is not required for an action ordered by the court. The action
1.18 may include destruction or alteration of beaver dams and removal of beaver. This subdivision
1.19 does not apply to state parks, state game refuges, and federal game refuges. Costs incurred
1.20 for actions ordered by the court under this subdivision are reimbursable according to section
1.21 97B.667, subdivision 5.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 97B.667, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.2 read:

2.3 Subd. 5. Cost reimbursement. (a) A person may submit to the commissioner for
2.4 reimbursement receipts for costs incurred for beaver control methods authorized under this
2.5 section or section 97B.655, subdivision 2, or 97B.665, subdivision 2. Costs eligible for
2.6 reimbursement include costs for:

2.7 (1) taking beaver;

2.8 (2) removing, altering, or destroying a beaver lodge or dam;

2.9 (3) repairing damage to property caused by beaver;

2.10 (4) removing impairments caused by beaver when the impairments interfere with public
2.11 drainage systems or threaten to damage public property; or

2.12 (5) arranging for or contracting with a third party to perform an action under clauses (1)
2.13 to (4).

2.14 (b) A person must submit receipts for reimbursement during the state fiscal year that
2.15 the costs were incurred. The commissioner must reimburse eligible costs evidenced by valid
2.16 receipts submitted under paragraph (a) within 45 days of receiving the request for
2.17 reimbursement. The commissioner must use money from the base budget of the Division
2.18 of Fish and Wildlife. No money is appropriated to fund reimbursements according to this
2.19 subdivision.

2.20 (c) The commissioner may reduce the amount requested for reimbursement by the amount
2.21 of any grant received by the requester under section 103F.950.